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Foreign News on Apples

Export Outlook for Apples and Pears

Summary

Supplies of export apples in the United States and Canada will be much below those of last season. On the other hand, the European apple crop is larger. The reduction in the North American crop, however, should be more than enough to offset the increase in European supplies. The main effect of the larger European apple crop will probably be to restrict the export of American apples during the early months of the season. There should, however, be a satisfactory outlet for moderate shipments of good, well-colored stock throughout the season. On the whole it appears that export apples will probably yield better net returns than last season, providing foreign exchange rates remain favorable.

The light American apple crop should mean higher domestic apple prices than last season. If this is the case, a larger proportion of the crop will probably be sold for fresh consumption in this country with the result that the proportions exported and processed will be lighter than usual.

There will be much smaller amounts of culls and off-grade fruit for by-products. Cull prices should rule considerably above those of recent years, particularly in the eastern States. The output of by-products, with the exception of brandy, will probably be rather light. Consequently, exports of canned and dried apples will likely be smaller. The export outlook for dried apples is rather unsatisfactory because of unfavorable exchange conditions in Germany, the chief market.

American pears constitute practically all of the world's export surplus of fancy table stock during the fall and winter months. The amount shipped from the United States to foreign markets will largely determine the prices returned for exports. The 1934 crop in the United States is of average size and exports should be about as large as last season.

Reports are conflicting but appear to indicate a larger European pear crop than in 1933. The bulk of the European production is usually consumed by the end of September. Early shipments of California pears, although rather heavy, made fairly satisfactory prices in the United Kingdom, the principal market, during July and early August. Heavy quantities of locally-grown fruit forced the market down the last of August. Until the bulk of the home-grown fruit is consumed returns are likely to be low, especially if arrivals of imported pears continue to be heavy.

With a larger canned-pear pack in sight in 1934, exports are likely to be larger. The export outlook appears to be satisfactory. Export prospects for dried pears, however, are not bright. The main outlet is Germany, where imports are being greatly restricted on account of the scarcity of foreign exchange.

APPLES

The United States commercial apple crop for 1934 is provisionally placed at 68,070,000 bushels, or 29 percent below the average crop during the five years 1927-31, and the smallest crop since 1921. The barreled apple crop of 30,439,000 bushels in the eastern States is 42 percent below average and the boxed apple crop of 37,631,000 bushels in the western States is 15 percent below.

The commercial crop last year amounted to 74,722,000 bushels, of which 12,300,000 bushels, or 16.5 percent, were exported. That, however, was an unusually high proportion of exports for so small a crop and is explained by the improvement in foreign exchange rates, the increase in the French quota and the short apple crops in Europe in 1933-34. Exports in small-crop years (crops of less than 80,000,000 bushels) usually constitute only about 12 percent of the crop, a figure proportionately smaller than in large-crop years, because of the high prices to be obtained in this country. For details of production and exports last season see the table on page 9.

Apple exports during the 1934-35 season are not likely to be less than 12 or more than 17 percent of the crop. On the basis of the present estimate this would give an export of from 8,000,000 to 11,500,000 bushels. Over 20,000,000 bushels of apples were exported in 1926-27, 1928-29, and in 1930-31.

The 1934 commercial crop of 68,070,000 bushels could easily be disposed of entirely in the domestic markets, since the commercial disappearance of apples averages 85,000,000 bushels, were it not for the fact that the small sizes, especially those measuring 2-1/4 inches or smaller, and certain varieties, such as Yellow Newtown, York Imperial, Ben Davis, Orley and White Pearmain, generally make higher prices abroad than in the United States.

The non-commercial apple crop for 1934 is placed at 42,021,000 bushels, the smallest since 1927 when 37,298,000 bushels were so classified. This fruit is used for by-products such as dried apples, canned apples, cider, vinegar and brandy. Of these items canned and dried apples are important exports.

The following table gives the non-commercial apple crop and the production and exports of dried and canned apples in recent years.

Apples, canned and dried: United States non-commercial production, utilization and exports, 1927-1934.

Year	:United States non-commercial: apple crop	Canned apples and sauce		Dried apples	
		1/ Pack	2/ Exports	1/ Pro- duction	2/ Exports
	: 1,000 bushels	: 1,000 cases	: 1,000 cases	: Short	: Short
	:	:	:	:	:
1927	37,298	3,100	275	17,600	10,852
1928	68,861	4,800	552	34,100	25,012
1929	45,363	4,420	401	25,300	11,885
1930	51,314	3,800	307	24,900	19,060
1931	96,452	2,870	333	21,450	15,779
1932	55,200	3,525	359	23,850	18,300
1933	68,259	3,345	211	23,650	18,669
1934	3/ 42,021	:	:	:	:
	:	:	:	:	:

Compiled in the Foreign Agricultural Service from official and trade sources.

1/ Approximate. 2/ Harvest takes place in the fall so the export season is taken as starting in July of the year shown and running through June of the following year. Cases are about 50 lbs. 3/ Preliminary.

Despite the small non-commercial crop this year the canned apple production is likely to be as large as last year. Fewer apples will probably be dried than in 1933. At the present time it appears that the dried production will be about 20,000 short tons. Exports of both products are liable to be somewhat less than last season. There is nothing to indicate that the foreign demand for canned apples, which go chiefly to the United Kingdom, will be poorer, but the unsettled situation in Germany (the principal market) indicates that dried apple exports will be less.

Apple-crop prospects, exports from the United States in 1933-34 and the export outlook for 1934-35 are summarized in the table on page 8.

Canada expects a commercial apple crop of 11,057,000 bushels, which is a little above average but much below last season. The final estimate of the record 1933 crop was 16,282,000 bushels, of which 10,300,000 bushels, or 63.1 percent, were exported. Exports from Canada during 1934-35 will be much smaller than last season. Unless production estimates are later revised upwards sharply, exports for the season will not exceed 6,000,000 bushels. In view of present crop prospects in Canada the United States should find a market in 1934-35 for somewhat more than the 73,100 bushels of apples exported to Canada last season.

Reports from Europe indicate larger apple crops than in 1933. Due to the drought apples are running to small sizes in most countries. Early apples appear to be better crops than later varieties. Quality is generally poor. European markets, particularly those on the continent,

will not need as many imported apples early in the season as in short-crop years. However, since the American crop is extremely small, it will be necessary either to ship heavily in the early months or to export as many apples as in 1933-34 in order to dispose of the entire export surplus.

The United Kingdom expects an apple crop larger than the 7,654,000 bushels harvested in 1933. Apple consumption in the United Kingdom amounts to about 26,000,000 bushels a year, exclusive of cider apples. Assuming that the crop, which is described as satisfactory by the British Ministry of Agriculture, turns out to be 11,000,000 bushels exclusive of cider apples, there would still be room for 15,000,000 bushels of imported apples. Since Canada will have fewer apples to export, it would seem that there should be a market in 1934-35 for more than the 3,375,000 bushels exported from the United States to England in 1933-34.

Germany is a doubtful apple market for the coming season. The stringent import regulations and the larger Continental apple crop are likely to reduce materially the imports of apples during 1934-35. Exports from the United States to Germany last season totaled 3,216,000 bushels, or almost as much as was shipped to the United Kingdom. A fairly good apple crop is in sight in Germany, although the local crop is never sufficient to supply the normal consumption requirements of the country.

A fair apple crop is expected in the Netherlands. The United States shipped 1,823,000 bushels of apples last season to that market. Takings should not be a great deal different in the present season. The amount will depend to a considerable extent on the re-export business from Rotterdam.

France is harvesting a fairly good apple crop this year but the quality is poor. France produces large quantities of apples, mostly cider and cooking sorts. The country is on an import basis for dessert apples.

It is impossible to forecast whether France will permit as many apples to enter in 1934-35 under the quota as last season when the United States exported 1,267,000 bushels of apples to France. Rejections because of San Jose scale were quite heavy last season.

An average apple crop is in sight in Belgium. Exports of apples from the United States to Belgium last season amounted to 868,000 bushels. This figure is not likely to be exceeded in 1934-35 but the proportion of boxed apples is likely to be larger, because of the reduction in the high duty on that pack this spring. Present rates are around $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢ per pound for packages weighing above 44 pounds.

In the Scandinavian countries apple production is seldom sufficiently large to affect imports significantly. Apples this season had a good bloom but low temperatures afterwards reduced the set. Denmark expects an average apple crop but Sweden and Norway are said to have small crops in sight.

Exchange restrictions constitute the principal barrier to exports to Denmark. Apple exports to Denmark in 1933-34 amounted to 215,000 bushels. Less will probably be taken in 1934-35. Interest in imported apples should be stronger after December.

Exports of apples to Sweden declined from 461,000 bushels in 1932-33 to 222,000 last season. This was mostly due to an increase in the duty. There should be a market for a somewhat larger quantity in the present season.

Norway maintains an almost prohibitive duty on apples and pears. Consequently, that market is of less importance to American apple shippers than Denmark or Sweden. Exports from the United States amounted to only 49,000 bushels in 1933-34. This amount may be exceeded in 1934-35.

A normal crop of apples is in prospect in Poland. This country has increased her imports of American apples in recent years. High duties, compensating exports, and sanitary regulations make trading difficult. This market should be as good as last season when 109,000 bushels, mostly boxes, were exported to Poland.

Apples are generally reported to be fairly good crops in Italy, Switzerland, Austria, and Hungary. Drought threatens to make a failure out of what earlier appeared to be good pome crops in Czechoslovakia. These countries are mainly exporters of apples.

About 7 or 8 percent of the United States apples go to countries outside of Europe, mainly Canada, Latin American countries and Asiatic countries. These markets should be at least as good as last year unless the United States export prices are considerably higher, in which event shipments may decline somewhat. Asiatic markets, together with Egypt, showed considerable improvement in 1933-34.

PEARS

The 1934 pear crop in the United States is placed at 22,947,000 bushels - 17,387,000 in the western boxed States and 5,566,000 in the eastern barreled States. The crop is slightly above average and a little larger than 1933. Exports of fresh pears during the 1933-34 season amounted to 2,200,000 bushels or about 14.1 percent of the fresh supply of 15,600,000 bushels. The fresh pear supply this season, assuming that about 6,000,000 bushels are processed, will be around 16,400,000 bushels. This indicates that roughly 2,000,000 to 3,000,000 bushels of pears should be available for export. The following table summarizes the production and exports of fresh pears.

Pears: United States production and exports, 1927-28 to 1933-34

Season July-June	Production			Amount:		
	Total	Boxed	Barreled	used 1/fresh	Fresh exports	
	Million bushels	Million bushels	Million bushels	Million bushels	Million bushels	Per- cent
1927-28 ...	18.4	11.7	6.6	15.0	1.0	6.8
1928-29 ...	24.2	16.1	8.1	19.0	1.7	8.7
1929-30 ...	21.2	14.8	6.4	16.1	1.2	7.7
1930-31 ...	25.5	19.4	6.2	20.5	2.7	13.2
1931-32 ...	23.0	15.1	7.9	18.5	1.8	9.8
Average ...	22.5	15.4	7.0	17.8	1.7	9.5
1932-33 ...	22.0	17.1	4.9	17.8	2.4	13.6
1933-34 ...	21.2	16.6	4.6	15.6	2.2	14.1
1934-35 ...	22.4	16.5	5.9			

Compiled in the Foreign Agricultural Service from official sources.

1/ Total production less fruit canned and dried.

The canned-pear pack will probably be larger than last year, when around 4,428,000 cases were packed, possibly by as much as a million cases. The dried pear output is not likely to be as heavy as the large production of 1933.

Exports of canned pears will probably be about the same as last season but dried-pear shipments, for which Germany has been the chief market, are expected to be lower. The following table shows the production and exports of canned and dried pears for the last five years.

Pears, canned and dried: United States production and exports, 1929-1934

Year	pear crop	Canned pears			Dried pears		
		1/ Pack	2/ Exports	1/ Production	2/ Exports		
		bushels	cases	cases	tons	tons	
1929 ...	21,138	4,221	1,094	4,157		1,827	
1930 ...	25,665	4,175	1,487	4,508		4,018	
1931 ...	23,357	3,652	1,435	4,370		3,039	
1932 ...	22,050	3,117	1,215	5,460		3,129	
1933 ...	21,192	4,428	1,568	6,000		4,204	
1934 ... 3/	22,947						

Compiled in the Foreign Agricultural Service from official and trade sources. 1/ Approximate. 2/ Export season July-June. Cases about 50 lbs. 3/ Preliminary.

The 1934 pear crop in Canada is expected to be about 399,000 bushels, as against 470,000 last year. This would indicate that the United States should be able to export more than the 181,000 bushels shipped to Canada in the 1933-34 season. Pear exports to Canada have declined heavily in the last two years, largely because of the high duty. Canadian pears are not an important factor in export markets.

The pear crop in Europe is generally good this year, especially the early varieties. Quality, however, is rather poor. The large size of the 1934 crop will probably have the effect of reducing the imports of American pears in September and early October. Usually the European pear crop is consumed by October.

About 84 percent of our 1933-34 exports of pears went to Europe, a volume amounting to 1,866,800 bushels of 50 pounds. This figure was somewhat below the 2,030,400 bushels exported in 1932-33, but above that of any previous season.

The United Kingdom, the most important market for pears, expects a larger crop than the 890,000 bushels harvested in 1933. This outlet for American pears is likely to be somewhat smaller than in 1933-34 when 1,119,000 bushels were taken. Because of larger crops the United Kingdom will probably import larger quantities from Continental countries early in the season than last year.

Fairly good pear crops are expected in Germany this year. Due to the larger crop and the stringent import requirements Germany is not likely to take as many pears as in 1933-34 when the United States exported 59,000 bushels to that country. Pears are an average crop in the Netherlands. About 214,000 bushels were exported to Holland in 1933-34 from the United States, or about the same quantity as in the previous season. There should be a market for a similar quantity in 1934-35.

France is harvesting a good crop of pears. Considering the larger crop and the import quotas, France is not likely to take as many pears as last season when the United States exports reached 397,000 bushels. Belgium is not an important market for United States pears and, in addition, a good crop is in prospect in that country. Consequently, it does not seem that the 10,000 bushels exported to Belgium in 1933-34 will be exceeded.

Pears are not an important crop in the Scandinavian countries. The crop, however, is fairly good this year. The United States exported 47,600 bushels to Sweden, 14,300 to Denmark, and 4,000 to Norway in 1933-34. Somewhat larger amounts are likely to be sent to Sweden and Norway and about the same quantity to Denmark in the present season.

Outside of the United States the chief pear-exporting countries are Belgium, Switzerland, Italy and the Netherlands. The first two expect good crops, Italy a fairly good one and the Netherlands an average crop. Italy prohibits the entry of American apples and pears by quarantine, and Switzerland imports only small quantities.

Latin American and Asiatic countries took 170,000 bushels of American pears in 1933-34. Of these Brazil and Argentina are the most important. There is no reason to expect that these countries will take smaller amounts in 1934-35 than last season. The table on page 8. gives the condition of the crops, United States exports by countries in 1933-34 and the probable United States exports in 1934-35.

FRESH APPLES AND PEARS: Crop prospects, exports from the United States in 1933-34, and export outlook by countries

Principal countries	Condition of crops			U. S. exports		Probable U.S. exports for
				1933-34		1934-35 compared with 1933-34
	Apples	Pears	Soft fruits	Apples	Pears	Apples : Pears
<u>Importing coun- tries:</u>				1,000	1,000	
United Kingdom	Satisfac- tory	Good	Good	3,438	1,119	More : About /
Germany	Fairly good	Fairly good	Fairly good	3,216	59	Less : Prob- ably less
Sweden	Small	Moderate	a/	222	48	More : More
Denmark	Average	Moderate	a/	215	14	Less : Similar
Norway	Small	Moderate	a/	49	4	More : More
Argentina	b/	b/	b/	221	23	More : More
Brazil	a/	a/	a/	91	69	Similar : Similar
Mexico	a/	a/	a/	13	3	Similar : Similar
Cuba	a/	a/	a/	38	8	More : More
China & H.K.	c/	c/	c/	95	5	Similar : Similar
Egypt	a/	a/	a/	32	16	Similar : Similar
Philippines ..	a/	a/	a/	78	2	More : More
<u>Exporting and im- porting countries</u>						
France	Fairly good	Good	Fair	1,287	397	Less : Less
Netherlands ..	Good	Average	Good	1,823	214	Similar : Similar
Belgium	Average	Good	Fairly good	868	10	Some less : Less
Poland	Average	a/	a/	109	d/	Similar : d/
Switzerland ..	Good	Good	Average	e/	e/	e/ Less : e/ Less
Austria	Fairly good	Good	Fairly good	e/	d/	e/ Less : e/ Less
Hungary	Fairly	Fairly good	Fairly good	e/	e/	e/ Less : e/ Less
<u>Exporting coun- tries:</u>						
United States..	Small	Average	Moderate	-	-	- : - : -
Canada	Average	Moderate	Moderate	73	181	More : More
Italy	Average	Fairly good	Fairly good	f/	f/	f/ : f/
Czechoslovakia	Moderate	Average good	Moderate	e/	e/	Similar : e/ Similar
TOTAL	Below average	Above average	Above average	12,262	2,220	About less : same

Compiled by the Foreign Agricultural Service from reports sent in by the London and Berlin offices of the Department and from information published in the Weekly Fruit Intelligence Notes of the Imperial Economic Committee. a/ Unimportant. b/ Opposite season. c/ Unreported. d/ Small. e/ Not imported direct but not heavy. f/ Prohibited by sanitary regulations.

APPLES: Production and exports, barreled, boxed and total,
United States and Canada, 1922-23 to 1933-34

Total United States			U. S. boxed apples			U. S. barreled apples		
Marketing year	Commer- cial		Exports of crop		Commer- cial		Exports of crop	
July-June	1/		exported		1/		exported	
	Million bushels	Million bushels	Percent	Million bushels	Million bushels	Percent	Million bushels	Million bushels
1922-23	101.3	5.3	5.2	38.0	3.5	9.2	63.3	1.8
1923-24	109.9	12.3	11.2	49.3	6.2	12.6	60.6	6.1
1924-25	87.7	9.6	10.9	33.5	5.1	15.2	54.2	4.5
1925-26	100.1	11.0	11.0	42.6	5.4	12.7	57.5	5.6
1926-27	121.5	21.3	17.5	44.3	7.8	17.6	77.2	13.5
Average	104.1	11.9	11.4	41.5	5.6	13.5	62.6	6.3
1927-28	78.3	2.4	12.0	38.3	5.4	14.1	40.0	4.0
1928-29	107.9	21.0	19.5	51.3	12.0	23.4	56.6	9.0
1929-30	88.0	10.3	11.7	40.0	6.0	15.0	48.0	4.3
1930-31	102.1	20.3	19.9	51.8	12.0	23.2	50.3	8.3
1931-32	106.0	17.9	16.0	39.4	9.3	23.6	66.6	8.6
Average	96.5	15.8	16.4	44.2	8.9	20.1	52.3	6.8
1932-33	85.6	13.8	16.1	43.5	8.5	19.5	42.1	5.3
1933-34	74.7	12.3	16.5	31.3	8.6	27.5	43.4	3.7
1934-35 a/	68.1			37.6			30.5	
Total Canadian			Canadian boxed apples			Canadian barreled apples		
Marketing year	Commer- cial		Exports of crop		Commer- cial		Exports of crop	
July-June	Crop	Exports of crop	of crop	Crop	Exports of crop	Crop	Exports of crop	of crop
		exported			exported		exported	
	Million bushels	Million bushels	Percent	Million bushels	Million bushels	Percent	Million bushels	Million bushels
1922-23	11.7	4.7	40.2	2.8	2/	2/	8.9	2/
1923-24	11.5	4.9	42.6	3.3	2/	2/	8.2	2/
1924-25	8.9	4.2	47.2	2.7	2/	2/	6.2	2/
1925-26	8.9	4.3	48.3	2.8	2/	2/	6.1	2/
1926-27	8.8	3.1	35.2	3.9	2/	2/	4.9	2/
Average	10.0	4.2	42.0	3.1	2/	2/	6.9	2/
1927-28	8.4	2.8	33.3	3.2	2/	2/	5.2	2/
1928-29	9.7	3.3	34.0	4.4	1.0	22.7	5.3	2.3
1929-30	11.8	5.6	47.5	3.3	.8	24.2	8.5	4.8
1930-31	10.2	4.7	46.1	4.3	1.3	30.2	5.9	3.4
1931-32	11.4	5.0	43.9	3.4	2/	23.5	7.5	4.2
Average	10.3	4.3	41.7	3.7	2/	27.0	6.5	4/
1932-33	11.9	5.5	46.2	5.1	3/	2.1	3/	3.4
1933-34	16.3	3/10.3	5/ 63.1	4.6	3/	2.1	3/	50.0
1934-35 a/	11.1			4.8			6.3	

Compiled by the Foreign Agricultural Service from official sources.

1/ Commercial apple crop or that portion of the total crop sold for fresh consumption. 2/ Not available. 3/ Approximate. 4/ Four-year average.

a/ Preliminary.

